

## The House of Prayer

### What is a House of Prayer

Scripture—Matthew 21:12-13; Isaiah 56:6-7

Not just praying people but organized opportunities for prayer; Prayer permeates all aspects of the church

Upper Room Principle—Would people who come to the church recognize the priority of prayer as the early church; Acts 2:42-27. They had a special room.

Redefining success. Is success based on numbers and money? The church is God's answer in how to make disciples so the church that transforms people through loving God, loving people and loving mission are fulfilling Christ's mandate. They generally also are the growing churches.

Six areas that need to be changed to be a House of Prayer: The heart of the Senior Pastor; The heart of the congregation; The spiritual atmosphere of the church; the worship service; Intentional prayer mobilization; Outward, not just an inward focus.

Barriers: Busyness, apathy, self-sufficiency; no leadership

Profile of a House of Prayer; Worship; Church Groups; Mid-Week; Nights of Prayer; Prayer Conferences; Prayer not just an item on the program but an experience to be gained and shared.

"Building a successful prayer ministry is an important goal for any church. However, this is only the beginning. God's heart is after something more. His desire is that your congregation will be known as a house of prayer—a habitation for His presence and glory that transcends the walls of your church.

The goal is for prayer to saturate every aspect of the individual and corporate life of the church. In this stage, the whole congregation becomes consumed with a passion for intimacy with Christ that spills over into the entire community.

### Organizing the House of Prayer

Church Prayer Coordinator; Prayer Action Team; Assessing your church needs; Developing a House of Prayer Strategy; The Pastor's Pit crew; Motivating the whole church to pray; Mobilizing Intercessors; Corporate prayer gatherings; Praying outside the walls of your church.

### Having a House of Prayer Worship Service Monthly

#### House of Prayer Service

Theme for the day: \_\_\_\_\_

**Worship Leaders:** 2 songs of praise and welcome:

**Pastor** – brief explanation of House of Prayer Service,

**God Story** (testimony)

**Pastor** – prayer quilt

**Children's story:** (sing "Jesus loves me" while the children are coming forward.)

**Pastor:** talk on the theme of day – 3-5 mins

**Worship leader:** announce the offering

Congregational Song while the offering is being collected

**Prayer of Anointing** / Prayer blanket 5-7 mins

**Prayers for the People:** anointing by the elders with individuals while congregation sings, and any other prayers.

Honey and two elders will be up front ready to pray with anyone who asks.

**Deacon/ness** will position him/herself at the front of the centre aisle.

People who wish to be prayed for will come up the centre aisle. **Deacon/ness** will direct them one at a time to go to the pastor and elders, whoever is open (the person does not get to choose to whom they go). The pastor and elders will be praying for these people, one on one, and no-one will have microphones. These will be private prayers. The person desiring prayer will briefly outline to the elder what it is they wish prayer for and then the elder will lay hands on them, usually on their shoulder, and pray for them and anoint them with oil if that is the request. When they have been prayed for they will return to their seat via the outside aisles.

**Worship Leaders:** while all the praying is happening you will lead the congregation in quiet singing of prayer songs like, "Father I adore You," "Change my heart oh God," "I love you Lord," "Draw me close," etc. feel free to select songs, so long as they are meditative prayer songs. If it is a short song of only one stanza then sing it a few times. You will probably only need 2 or 3 songs. Have more on hand just in case. You will judge by the number of people who are coming forward.

**Pastor** - Sermon: Depending on the time, we might or might not have a sermon. Closing words.

Closing song: followed by closing prayer

#### **Eight practical Steps:**

**1. Pray for a hungry and thirsting after God.**

**2. Ask God to give others a burden for prayer. Then identify a group of praying people who can provide leadership in a prayer movement.**

**3. Appoint a prayer coordinator or prayer director in the church who will plan, program, and manage times of prayer. Such an individual's main task is to keep the vision of prayer in front of the people.**

**4. Promote prayer in connection with projects of the church, such as ministries events, the work of the local Adventist school, and evangelistic series.**

**5. Regularly publish and distribute a church prayer list.**

**6. Emphasize intercessory prayer for unsaved people. Aim to have at least 50 percent of your congregation praying for others.**

**7. Have more than one prayer meeting. Develop a whole program of prayer meetings according to ages, agencies, tasks, and needs ( prayer for the sick, a ministry to Jewish people, men and women in the armed forces, college students, missionaries, etc.)**

**8. Plan interesting and special programs with a special emphasis on prayer. Some ideas are: a. Hold a prayer conference in your church. b. Provide two or three prayer retreats each year. c. Host a banquet. d. At least once a year, preach a series on prayer. e. Offer a small group Bible study or Sabbath school class on prayer. f. Establish a men and women's prayer breakfast group that will meet for prayer every month. g. Schedule, during the corporate worship hour, testimonies about prayer every two or three weeks. h. Emphasize victory through prayer: Prevailing prayer brings victory in life. \***